

In this connection I might record taking Cowbird's eggs frequently from nests of the Indigo Bunting, and that invariably the Buntings have deserted their nest after these eggs were removed. — JOHN A. MORDEN, *Hyde Park, Ontario.*

The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) in Confinement.—There has been considerable written upon this subject, and yet my present pet has displayed several characteristics which I have not observed mentioned in any of the records I have access to, and which are rather interesting.

I took her (I am strongly impressed with the belief that the bird is a female) from the nest on May 21, 1882, and judged from the plumage that she was then some twenty days old. She and her nest mate were covered with a grayish down, and when I pushed them over the edge of the nest—a rough shapeless affair on the exterior, though comfortably lined with feathers, and built in the crotch of a birch tree some eighty feet from the ground—they made an awkward attempt at flying, but reached the ground all right. They snapped their bills as I picked them up, but allowed themselves to be carried off without making further remonstrance.

The parents did not interfere, though just before I climbed the tree one of them flew on to the edge of the nest and uttered a sharp and shrill cry, with a vibration similar to that produced by a 'pea' whistle (the same cry as my pet gives voice to when annoyed or angry), and then flew off. The nest, by the way, was in a rather odd situation, being on the outskirts of a heronry of the Great Blue Heron, and not a hundred feet from where a pair of Fish Hawks were putting in habitable condition a nest which appeared to have been used for many years.

I have given my pet the run of a large room, and had ample opportunity to watch her growth and habits. At four months the horns, or ear-tufts, began to be noticeable, and in six months the bird was in full feather. In April, 1883, when about a year old, she made two attempts at nest-building, but finally relinquished the idea and shortly after began to shed her feathers.

From my experience with this bird I cannot fairly say that I consider the species untameable, though I confess I have not made much headway in reducing her to submission; yet she will allow me to stroke her head, and makes very little fuss when I enter her apartment alone, in comparison to what she does when a stranger approaches her. But she is undoubtedly fierce, and thoroughly appreciating the value of her equipment of muscle and claw, and considering any infringement of vested rights a *casus belli*, soon teaches a meddlesome intruder that no liberties whatever will be tolerated.

At times she is morose and sullen, but not unfrequently assumes a more playful air, when she seemingly enjoys putting herself into grotesque attitudes, varied with hooting, and another sound which so closely resembles the creaking of the door-hinge of her apartment that I am inclined to believe she has imitated it. Once, while in such a mood, I introduced a full grown cock into the room, when lo! the whole demeanor

of my pet changed *instantly*. The horns were thrown back flat against the crown, the eyes glared fiercely, and the stately bird of wisdom, and the humorous vendor of quaint sounds, gave place to the savage bird of prey. As she stood for a moment glaring down upon her victim, moving her head from side to side, as if calculating the distance and the best method of attack, she looked like a veritable fiend. Her first swoop was dodged by the cock, and she then made an attack on the ground. Approaching the now terrified bully of the barn-yard, quick as a flash one claw was thrust out, clutching his neck; throwing him over on his back she quietly held him there until all motion had ceased, which was much sooner than if his head had been chopped off.

Nothing in the shape of fresh fish or flesh is neglected by the Owl when hungry, though her choice is for wild birds, and she will take small animals in preference to beef or mutton. A rat or squirrel is always swallowed whole, and about every second or third day the fur and bones are ejected, rolled into a hard pellet as large as a Grouse's egg. Just before ejecting these pellets the bird's appearance is very distressing. The first time I observed it I thought she must be ill, but as soon as the pellet is out she immediately recovers. If any food remains after her hunger is satisfied, it is carefully hidden away, and if I approach the spot where it has been laid the Owl attacks me most fiercely; flying at my feet, and hitting at them with her wings and claws.

She is very fond of bathing, and during the warm weather will bathe regularly once a day; getting into the large basin I have provided and washing very much after the manner of a Canary. In winter she takes a bath about every three or four days.

I have proven that her hearing is remarkably acute, and that she can see distinctly in the day time, when out of the glare of the sun.

The 'hoot' is made with the bill firmly closed; the air is forced into the mouth and upper part of the throat, the latter being puffed out to the size of a large orange.—JAMES W. BANKS, *St. John, N. B.*

Ducks transporting Fresh-water Clams.—In a conversation with Mr. J. W. Freese of Cambridge in relation to birds transporting bodies in their claws, my attention was called to an interesting observation made by Mr. Eugene Barry of Lynn. As the observation seems an important one, touching a possible cause of the distribution of these mollusks, I have asked Mr. Barry, through the kindness of Mr. Freese, to write out his experience, and from the letter which he has kindly sent in reply the following abstract is made.

While gunning on the Sebec River, Maine, he noticed among a flock of Ducks on the wing, one bird which flew more heavily than the others. This he shot, and on picking it up found a common 'fresh-water clam attached to the penultimate joint of the 'middle toe.' He cut off the leg with the clam adhering to it, and noticed that the articulation to which the mollusk had fastened itself was chafed as if the clam had clung to it for sometime. After a day or more the leg of the Duck and the clam, which had not yet released its hold, were put into a basin of water, when the